

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1-180. (Cancelled)

181. A composition comprising an isolated conformational epitope of a protofibrillar aggregate which a) forms in a human or animal and b) contributes to amyloid fibril formation.

182. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the composition comprises a peptide.

183. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the composition is conformationally constrained.

184. A composition according to claim 181 wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO. 1, SEQ ID NO. 2, SEQ ID NO. 3, SEQ ID NO. 4, SEQ ID NO. 5, SEQ ID NO. 6, SEQ ID NO. 7, SEQ ID NO. 8, SEQ ID NO. 9 and mixtures thereof.

185. A composition according to claim 183 wherein the epitope is constrained on a curved or flat surface.

186. A composition according to claim 185 wherein the surface is selected from; a) a protein, b) a protein that comprises a pleated sheet, c) a particle and a sheet.

187. A composition according to claim 180 wherein the composition is bound to a

support surface.

188. A composition according claim 180 wherein the composition is constrained on a support that comprises a material selected from; gold, zinc, cadmium, tin, titanium, silver, selenium, gallium, indium, arsenic, silicon, mixtures thereof and combinations thereof.

189. A composition according to claim 180 wherein the protofibrillar aggregate has a molecular weight in a range of about 1 kDa to about 100,000,000 kDa.

190. A composition according to claim 180 wherein the composition comprises a conformational epitope of a protofibrillar aggregate that comprises five or more monomers.

191. A composition according to claim 180 wherein the composition comprises a conformational epitope of a toxic species of a protofibrillar aggregate.

192. A diagnostic kit useful for detecting a disease characterized by amyloid deposits, said kit comprising an antibody that binds to a conformational epitope according to claim 1.

193. A diagnostic kit according to claim 192 wherein the amyloid fibril to which the conformational epitope contributes is substantially free of the epitope.